

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a client accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

- a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a client;
- b.) determining ~~whether that~~ the request for the resource does not include ~~includes~~ a visitor identifier and does not include an indicator that redirection has occurred;

- ~~e.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier;~~
 - ~~obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;~~
 - ~~determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and~~
 - ~~transmitting the requested resource to the client;~~

- [[d]]c.) responsive to determining that the request does not include ~~including~~ a visitor identifier and ~~responsive to the request does not include~~ including an indicator that redirection has occurred:

assigning a new visitor identifier;

sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier to the client, the redirection request ~~including comprising~~ an indicator that redirection has occurred, wherein the indicator that redirection has occurred is provided separate from the visitor identifier;

determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with the redirection request and that the client did not store the new visitor identifier sent with the redirection request;

~~responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers;~~

responsive to determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with the redirection request and that the client did not store the new visitor identifier sent with the redirection request~~the client not storing the new visitor identifier~~, determining that the client does not accept visitor identifiers; and

transmitting the requested resource to the client.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

3. (Currently amended) A method for determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor having an address;

b.) determining ~~whether that~~ the request does not include~~includes~~ a visitor identifier;

~~c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:~~

~~e.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;~~

~~e.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers; and~~

~~e.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and~~

[[d]] c.) responsive to determining that the request does not include~~including~~ a visitor identifier:

[[d.1]] ~~c.1)~~ determining ~~whether that~~ the request ~~does not include~~includes an indicator that redirection has already been performed, where redirection comprises:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending to the requestor a redirection request including the new visitor identifier and an indicator that redirection has already been performed, wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier ~~step d.3)~~ has been performed;

~~d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that step d.3) has been performed:~~

~~assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's address;~~

~~determining that the requestor does not accept visitor identifiers;~~

~~and~~

~~transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and~~

[[d.3]] ~~c.2)~~ responsive to determining that the request does not include an ~~including the indicator that step d.3)~~redirection has already been performed:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending to the requestor a redirection request including the new visitor identifier and an indicator that ~~step d.3)~~redirection has already been performed, wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier, the redirection request being

adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for
the resource; and
~~repeating steps a-d.~~

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein determining whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier comprises:

comparing the visitor identifier with a range of valid visitor identifiers; and,

in response to the visitor identifier being outside the range of valid visitor identifiers, indicating that the request did not include the visitor identifier.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

e.) categorizing data sent with the request for the resource by at least one selected from the group consisting of a visitor identifier, a page identifier, and a time stamp.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising:

repeating steps a-c[[d]] for a predetermined amount of time.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising:

repeating steps a-c[[d]] until receiving a particular request for a resource.

11. (Currently amended) A data collection server for determining whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising:

a communication interface for receiving a request for a resource from a requestor and sending a visitor identifier;

a cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for performing the steps of:

a) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier; and

~~b) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:~~

~~b.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;~~

~~b.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers; and~~

~~b.3) causing the communication interface to transmit the requested resource to the requestor;~~

[[c]] b) responsive to determining that the request does not ~~including~~ include a visitor identifier:

[[c.1]] b.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator that redirection has already been performed, where redirection comprises:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending to the requestor a redirection request including the new visitor identifier and an indicator that redirection has already been performed, wherein the indicator that redirection has been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier~~step e.3)~~
has been performed;

~~e.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that step e.3)~~
~~has been performed:~~
~~assigning a visitor identifier;~~
~~determining that the requestor does not accept visitor~~
~~identifiers; and~~
~~causing the communication interface to transmit the~~
~~requested resource to the requestor;~~

[[c.3]] b.2) responsive to determining that the request does not include an~~including the indicator that step e.3)~~
redirection
has already been performed:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

causing the communication interface to send to the requestor a redirection request including the new visitor identifier and an indicator that ~~step e.3)~~
redirection has already been performed, wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier, the redirection request being adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for the resource; and

a session controller coupled to the cookie handler for signaling a session end for a particular visitor identifier; and

a repository for:

storing data sent with the request for the resource;

~~responsive to the request including a visitor identifier, storing data associated with the visitor.~~

12. (Previously presented) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

13 - 17. (Canceled).

18. (Currently amended) ~~A computer program product having computer readable code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming one or more computers to perform a method for determining~~non-transitory computer readable storage medium storing program instructions thereon that, when executed, cause a computer to determine whether a client accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

a.) receiving a request for a resource, the request originating at a client;

b.) determining whether the request for the resource includes a visitor identifier and an indicator that redirection has already occurred;

~~c.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:~~

~~obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;~~

~~determining that the client accepts visitor identifiers; and~~

~~transmitting the requested resource to the client;~~

~~[[d]]~~c.) responsive to determining that the request does not include~~including the a~~
visitor identifier and ~~responsive to the request does not include~~including
an indicator that redirection has occurred:

assigning a new visitor identifier;

sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier to the client,
the redirection request including an indicator that redirection has
occurred, wherein the indicator that redirection has occurred is
provided separate from the visitor identifier;

determining whether redirection has occurred in accordance with the
redirection request and whether the client stored the new visitor
identifier sent with the redirection request;

~~responsive to the client storing the new visitor identifier, determining that~~
~~the client accepts visitor identifiers~~;

responsive to determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with
the redirection request and that the client did not store the new
visitor identifier sent with the redirection request~~the client not~~
~~storing the new visitor identifier~~, determining that the client does
not accept visitor identifiers; and

transmitting the requested resource to the client.

19. (Currently amended) ~~A computer program product having computer readable~~
~~code embodied thereon, said computer readable code for programming one or more~~
~~computers to perform a method for determining~~non-transitory computer readable storage
medium storing program instructions thereon that, when executed, cause a computer to
determine whether a requestor accepts visitor identifiers, comprising the steps of:

a.) receiving a request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor having an address;

b.) determining whether the request includes a visitor identifier; and

~~e.) responsive to the request including a visitor identifier:~~

~~e.1) obtaining data associated with the visitor identifier;~~

~~e.2) determining that the requestor accepts visitor identifiers; and~~

~~e.3) transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and~~

[[d]] c.) responsive to determining that the request does not includeincluding a visitor identifier:

[[d.1]] c.1) determining whether the request includes an indicator that redirection has already been performed, where redirection comprises:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending to the requestor a redirection request including a new visitor identifier and an indicator that redirection has already been performed, wherein the indicator that redirection has already been performed is provided separate from the visitor identifier~~step [[d.3)]] has been performed;~~

~~d.2) responsive to the request including the indicator that step d.3) has been performed:~~

~~assigning a visitor identifier from the requestor's address;~~

~~determining that the requestor does not accept visitor identifiers;~~

~~and~~

~~transmitting the requested resource to the requestor; and~~

[[d.3)]] c.2) responsive to determining that the request does not include
~~including the an~~ indicator that ~~step d.3)~~ redirection has already
been performed:

assigning a new visitor identifier; and

sending to the requestor a redirection request including the new
visitor identifier and an indicator that ~~step d.3)~~ redirection
has already been performed, wherein the indicator that
redirection has already been performed is provided separate
from the visitor identifier, the redirection request being
adapted to cause the requestor to retransmit the request for
the resource; ~~and~~

~~repeating steps a-d.~~

20. (Currently amended) The computer readable storage medium~~program product~~
of claim 19, wherein the visitor identifier comprises a cookie.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received request
identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource identified by the
received request.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the received request
identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address identified by the
received request.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein sending a redirection
request comprises sending a redirection request including an indicator that step c) has
been performed.

24. (Canceled).

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received request identifies a resource, and the redirection request identifies the resource identified by the received request.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the received request identifies an address, and the redirection request identifies the address identified by the received request.

27 - 29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

repeating steps a-c[[d]] until reaching a session expiration.

31. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

repeating steps a-c[[d]] until reaching a session expiration.

32. (New) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving another request for a resource, the another request originating at a client;

determining that the another request for the resource does not include a visitor identifier and does not include an indicator that redirection has occurred;

responsive to determining that the another request does not include a visitor identifier and does not include an indicator that redirection has occurred:

assigning a new visitor identifier;

sending a redirection request with the new visitor identifier to the client,
the redirection request comprising an indicator that redirection has
occurred, wherein the indicator that redirection has occurred is
provided separate from the visitor identifier;

determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with the
redirection request and that the client did store the new visitor
identifier sent with the redirection request;

responsive to determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with
the redirection request and that the client did store the new visitor
identifier sent with the redirection request, determining that the
client does accept visitor identifiers; and

transmitting the requested resource to the client.

33. (New) The method of claim 3, further comprising:

d.) receiving another request for a resource from a requestor, the requestor having
an address;

e.) determining that the another request does not include a visitor identifier;

f.) responsive to determining that the another request does not include a visitor
identifier:

f.1) determining that the another request does include an indicator that
redirection has already been performed;

f.2) responsive to determining that the request does include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning a visitor identifier based on the requestor's address;

determining that the requestor does not accept visitor identifiers;

and

transmitting the requested resource to the requestor.

34. (New) The data collection server of claim 11, wherein the cookie handler coupled to the communications interface for performing the further steps of:

b.3) responsive to determining that the request does include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning a visitor identifier based on the requestor's address;

determining that the requestor does not accept visitor identifiers; and

causing the communication interface to transmit the requested resource to the requestor.

35. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

responsive to determining that redirection has occurred in accordance with the redirection request and that the client did store the new visitor identifier sent with the redirection request, determining that the client does accept visitor identifiers.

36. (New) The computer readable storage medium of claim 19, further comprising the steps of:

c.3) responsive to determining that the request does include an indicator that redirection has already been performed:

assigning a visitor identifier based on the requestor's address;

determining that the requestor does not accept visitor identifiers; and

transmitting the requested resource to the requestor.